

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 050907Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1192

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

S E C R E T KUALA LUMPUR 5321

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, MY

SUBJ: U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MALAYSIA

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 5290

1. DURING CALL YESTERDAY (SEPT 4) BY RECENTLY RETURNED POLOFF ON CANADIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER, LATTER ASKED ABOUT REPORTS CIRCULATING HERE THAT AFTER FALL OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA U.S. OFFERED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TREATY TO GOM. MALAYSIAN SOURCES HAVE TOLD CANADIAN HICOM THAT THIS WAS REASON FOR HABIB VISIT IN MAY AND THAT GOM REJECTED PROFFERED TREATY BECAUSE OF NON-ALIGNED POSTURE BUT HAS PROVIDED U.S. WITH EXTENSIVE MILITARY SHOPPING LIST. CANADIAN ADDED THAT HICOM HAS BEEN VISITED BY A NUMBER OF PERSONS REPRESENTING THEMSELVES AS ABLE TO DIVERT AT LEAST SOME OF THIS PROCUREMENT TO CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS. (HE NOTED THAT CANADIANS HAVE BEEN TOLD A US DOLS 30,000 FINDERS FEE WOULD BE NECESSARY IN ADVANCE OF ANY PROCUREMENT, IN ADDITION TO COMMISSION ON SALES.) EMBOFF REPLIED THAT STORY WAS HIGHLY EXAGGERATED, THAT U.S. HAS HAD A MODEST FMS CREDIT PROGRAM FOR SOME YEARS AND THAT WHILE DISCUSSIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE WITH GOM REGARDING POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL GOM PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS, A TREATY HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN PROFFERED. HE ADDED THAT NEITHER THE U.S. NOR MALAYSIA WAS CONSIDERING ANY KIND OF "ASSISTANCE" PROGRAM.

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2. MILITARY AND GOVT CONTRACTS HAVE BECOME A LUCRATIVE

BUSINESS FOR SEVERAL WELL CONNECTED MALAYS AND THEIR
FRIENDS AND RELATIVES IN THE GOVT THEREFORE THE POSSIBILITY
OF PROFITABLE AGENCY DEALS COULD NOT REMAIN SECRET LONG.
UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, EMBASSY PLANS TO FOLLOW SAME
LINE AS TAKEN WITH CANADIAN HICOM IF QUERIED BY OTHER
FRIENDLY DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.
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